

Remarks: Claims

The amendments to the claims resulted in cancellation of two independent claims and conversion of eight dependent claims into independent claims. This reduced the total number of claims in the case by two, and increased the number of independent claims by six.

Claim 16 was cancelled.

Claim 17 was rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in the original base claim, 16.

Claim 18 was rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in the original base claim, 16.

Claim 19 was rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in the original base claim, 16.

Claim 20 was rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in the original base claim, 16.

Claim 24 was cancelled.

Claim 25 was rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in the original base claim, 24.

Claim 26 was rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in the original base claim, 24.

Claim 27 was rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in the original base claim, 24.

Claim 28 was rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in the original base claim, 24.

Remarks: Examination Report

Claims 1-41 are pending in the application. Claims 1-15 and 32-41 were allowed. Claims 16 and 24 were rejected. Claims 17-23 and 25-31 were objected to.

In particular, Claims 16 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bottomley (U.S. Pat. No. 5,615,209).

The Examiner indicated that Claims 17-23 and 25-31 were objected to because they were dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations recited in the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Claim 16 was cancelled, and Claims 17-20 were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations recited in the original base claim 16. Claims 21-23 are unchanged, because these claims include the limitations of the rewritten Claim 20.


Similarly, Claim 24 was cancelled, and Claims 25-28 were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations recited in the original base claim 24. Claims 29-31 are unchanged, because these claims include the limitations of the rewritten Claim 28.

The prior-art references made of record and not relied upon were studied, and it was determined that these references are not pertinent to the claimed invention.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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